THE TRIAL or< SIR JOHN PFRROT

Sir John Perrot, who hath lam a prisoner in the Tower for more than a year past, was brought to his trial before the King's Bench Bar, before the commissioners being the Lord Chamberlain, the Lord Buckhurst, Sir Robert Cecil, the Lord Chief Justice and other judges He was charged on two indictments, the first that m 1587 he went about lo depose and raise rebellion against the Queen, that he had promised help to the King of Spam, and that he had procured and moved Sir Brian O'Rourke to rebellion The second indictment charged him with having conferred with Sn William Stanley in 1586 about his treasonable practices

To these indictments he pleaded not guilty very vehemently The jury was then sworn, and the indictments having been read, Sergeant Puckering for the Queen rehearsed the principal points of the indictment* But before he came to the particular offences, he told them that the origin of these treasons proceeded from the imagination of the heart, which imagination was of itself high treason, albeit the same proceeded not to any overt fact, and the heart being possessed with the abundance of his traitorous imagination and not being able so to contain itself, burst forth m vile and traitorous speeches and from thence to horrible and heinous actions

At this Sir John prayed Sergeant Puckering to lay aside words and proceed to the matter of the indictment, to which he answered that he would proceed by degrees, but would first begin with his contemptuous words which in themselves contamed the high treason

Amongst other speeches, it was reported that when Sir Nicholas Bagnol, Marshal of Ireland, was with Sir John in his

house, hot words had broken out and Sir John cried, * If it were not for yonder pilled and paltry sword that lieth in the window I would not brook these comparisons,' meaning her Majesty's Sword of Justice which was carried before him

Sir John answered that he had called the sword * pilled and paltry ' because the scabbard was old and worn , and within a week after he had caused a new scabbard to be made Then falling into other idle discourse, the Lord Buckhurst begged him not to speak from the purpose for it would but hurt his cause